

INTRODUCTION. The City of Durham began creating its first pedestrian plan, *DurhamWalks!* ("Plan") in mid-2005. The Plan included the formation of a Stakeholder Committee that had representatives of several areas of Durham's city services, Durham Public School System, law enforcement, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), and others. The Stakeholder Committee met every 1-2 months to discuss various aspects of the planning process, such as creating realistic goals for the Plan, discussing public involvement strategies, how to prioritize projects, and reviewing sections of the Draft Plan as they became available.

Vision Statement

Visitors to and residents of the City walk to their destinations often because Durham has a safe, accessible, convenient and comfortable network of sidewalks, trails, and other pedestrian facilities.

Mission Statement

The City of Durham is committed to creating and maintaining a safe, accessible network of pedestrian facilities for all residents, and implementing policies and programs to inform our citizens and enforce our laws.

PUBLIC OUTREACH. During the development of *DurhamWalks!* City and consulting staff undertook a number of efforts to reach out to the public and gather information used in the Plan:

- Presented information at Partners Against Crime (PAC) Meetings
- Undertook public workshops throughout the City
- Helped 14 public schools conduct walking audits
- Established a telephone "hotline"
- Created on-line (Internet) and paper surveys
- Created a project website, DurhamWalks.org
- Conducted transit and law enforcement focus groups

FINANCING AND IMPLEMENTATION. During the development of the Plan (November, 2005), the City of Durham's voters passed a \$3 million bond for improving and creating sidewalks around the City, reaffirming Durham's commitment to realizing the Vision of *DurhamWalks!* Durham also allocates or receives funding from general revenues, state roadway projects where pedestrian facilities are incidental to the roadway construction, and occasional earmarks for high priority projects at the federal level.

Nevertheless, prioritizing projects remains a necessary part of deciding where to allocate scarce funds for future improvements.



... How You Can Comment...

- ☞ Contact Us (See reverse side)
- ☞ Call Us – Plan Hotline (919.467.9081)
- ☞ Come to our **Public Meeting**
February 28, 2006
4:00pm – 8:00pm
Durham City Hall
City Council Chambers (1st Floor)
101 City Hall Plaza
Durham, NC 27701

Pedestrian Plan: Draft Summary

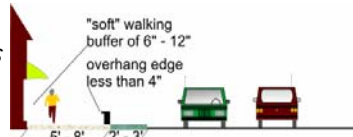
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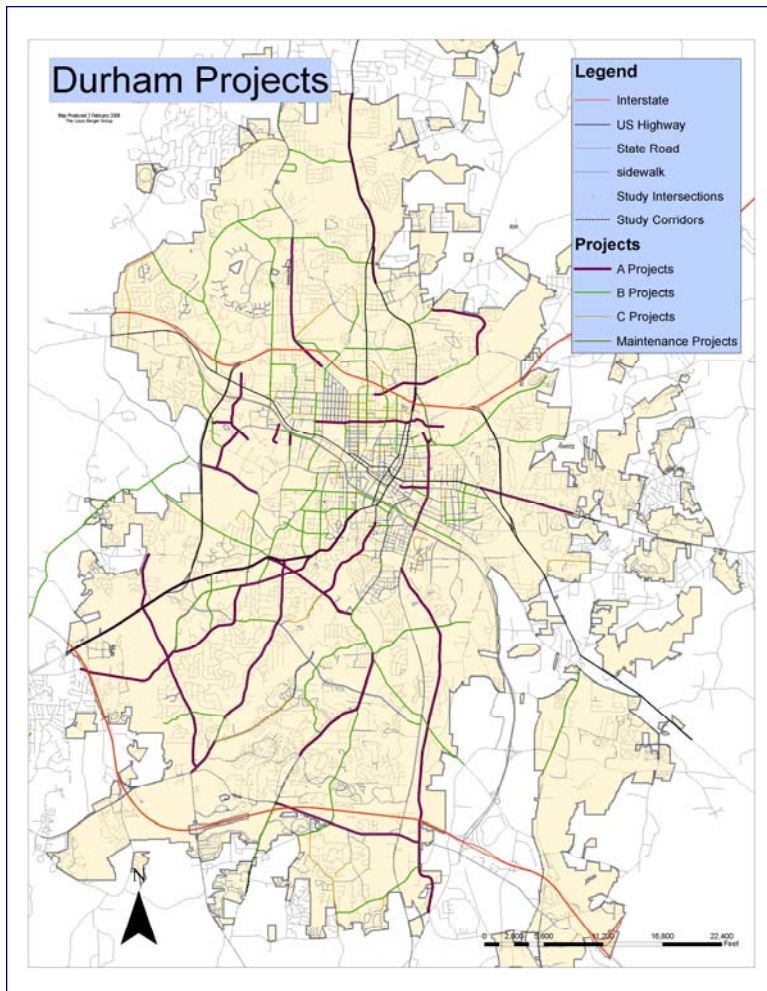
DURHAM WALKS! PEDESTRIAN PLAN

PROJECTS. The draft *DurhamWalks!* Pedestrian Plan contains the following sections:

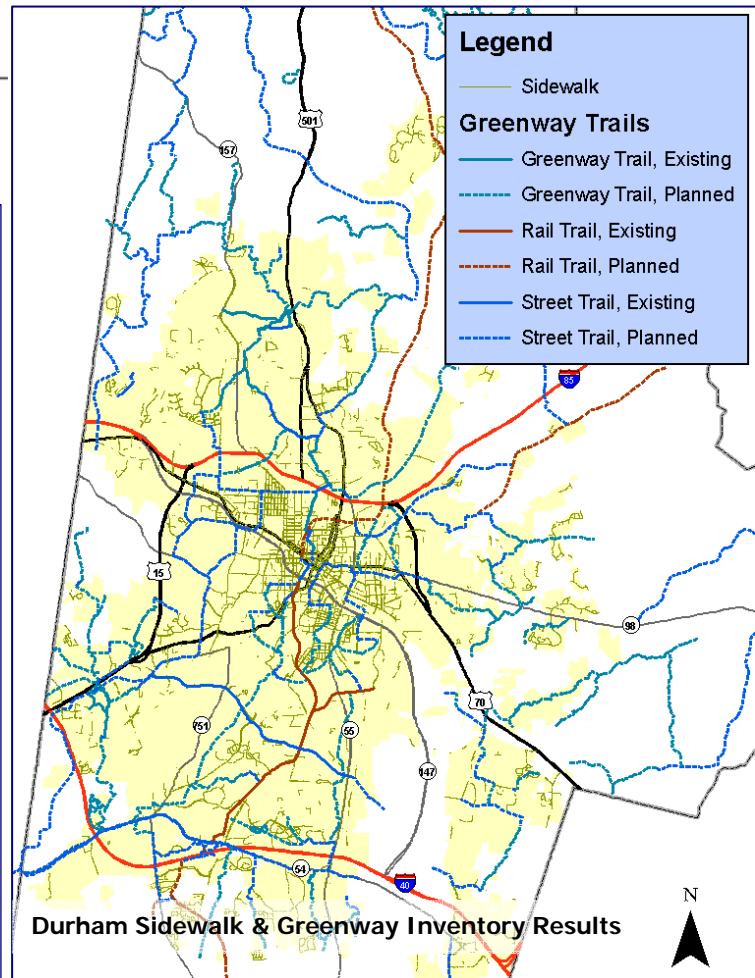
- Current Conditions
- Existing Plans & Policies
- New Project Development
- Standards and Guidelines
- New Programs and Policies
- Implementing the Plan



The Plan identifies a number of projects that include new sidewalks, sidewalk repairs, and intersection/safety improvements. These are indicated in the map, below.



PROGRAMS AND POLICIES. In addition to specific projects, the *DurhamWalks!* Plan recommends a number of specific changes to the City's policies that direct how and when pedestrian facilities are constructed. The Plan speaks to traffic calming issues, sidewalk request procedures for existing neighborhoods, sidewalk construction as a



part of new development, new "best practice" guidance for connecting communities and different land uses by walking, and new education and enforcement programs, some of which are described in more detail below.

Public comments, compatible land uses, accident histories, sidewalk condition, and proximity to schools and transit played a role in arriving at this recommended list of projects.

DURHAM WALKS! PEDESTRIAN PLAN

Safe Routes to School. Named after a federal program, SR2S works to achieve awareness on the part of students in elementary and middle schools about safe walking habits, and links the needs of schools with resources at local, state, and federal levels. Some of the activities suggested are:

- Sidewalk Art Contest
- Walking School Bus
- Walk-to-School Day with Parents
- Health Lesson on the Benefits of Walking
- Campus Clean-Up Day

Pedestrian Awareness Task Force. The City will begin working internally with law enforcement, engineering, and transportation staff to continually monitor and address pedestrian safety issues before they become serious. Representatives will meet quarterly to review accident data and discuss engineering, awareness, and enforcement solutions to pedestrian problems; meet with mobility handicapped persons; and develop a log-in system for recording complaints.



Other Actions. The City is recommended to increase its marketing budget for transit-related outreach activities to seniors and students; revise its current assessment policies for both private and public installation of sidewalks; and develop a certification program for new developments that exceed the standard for pedestrian, cycling, and transit accessibility.

Where We've Been, and What's Next



For More Information, Please Contact Us....

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